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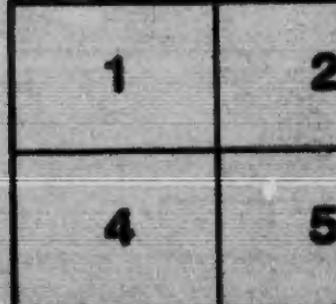
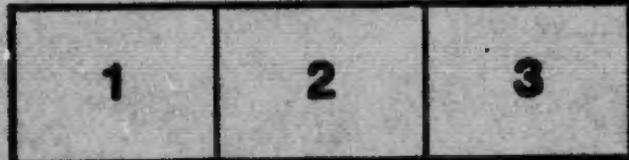
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# **TIMBER ADMINISTRATION**

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**Liberals sold Timber by Public Tender to the highest bidder up to December, 1907. Now it is reserved at an upset price and sold by Public Auction**

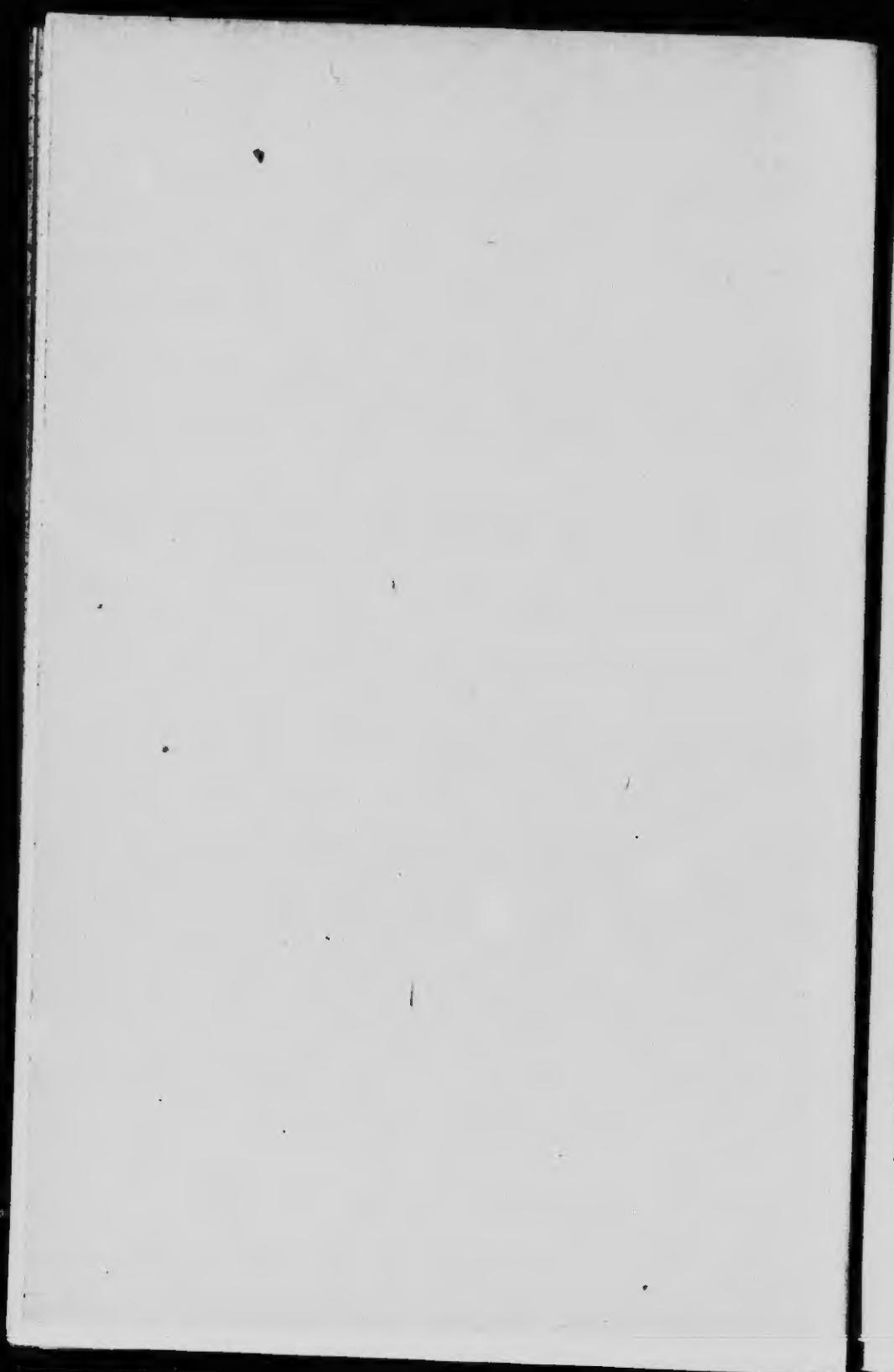
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## **CONSERVATIVES LOOTED IT**

**Divided more of the timber lands among themselves in one year (1883) than the Liberals sold altogether since coming into power**

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## **TORIES ABANDONED INVESTIGATION**



# **Timber Administration**

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**Liberals Sold Timber by Public Tender to the Highest Bidder up to December, 1907. Now it is Reserved at an Upset Price and Sold by Public Auction.**

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Driven to desperate methods by their many abortive attempts to discredit the Government of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the Conservatives have had the audacity to compare the administration of the Timber Lands under a Liberal Government, with the manner in which the timber lands were administered by their Government when in power.

No comparison more disastrous to the Conservative Party could have been invited, nor one more welcome to the Government. The facts have only to be stated for the people to pass judgment upon them, and that judgment will undoubtedly endorse the policy of the Liberal Government, and, it cannot fail also to carry a severe condemnation of the Conservative Administration.

## **TORIES LOOTED TIMBER**

The Conservative Government for eighteen years regarded the public domain, lands and timber, as a perquisite to be divided amongst Conservative Senators, Members of the Government, Members of Parliament, defeated candidates, party workers, and prominent supporters of the party generally throughout the country. There was no regard for the public interest, no care exercised to secure fair compensation to the treasury in exchange for valuable concessions. The prevailing idea was to take advantage of the power they had, and give the property of the people to members of the Conservative Party.

## **LIST OF LOOTERS**

No sooner did the Conservatives gain power in 1878, than the process of looting commenced. With each succeeding year the raid on the timber continued until the year 1883, when the acme of cupidity was reached, and a veritable scramble occurred, for during that year the rapacious and unprincipled Conservative politicians DIVIDED AMONG THEMSELVES, FREE OF COST, NO LESS THAN 10,326 SQUARE MILES OF TIMBER LIMITS COVERING 6,608,640 ACRES OF LAND, the property of the taxpayers of Canada. During the year 1883 there were 212 timber limits disposed of MAKING A STRIP OF FOREST 33 MILES WIDE, AND REACHING FROM OTTAWA TO TORONTO ; OR A STRIP THREE MILES WIDE EXTENDING FROM HALIFAX TO VANCOUVER.

This hungry horde secured the vast tracts mentioned ABOVE ABSOLUTELY FREE OF COST. Not a cent was demanded or paid. The unfaithful men in charge of public affairs divided the property of the people among themselves at the rate of 22,500 acres a day for three hundred working days.

Who were the looters? Who got the timber limits in Conservative days, and got them for nothing? The following is a partial list of the men who grabbed the timber of Canada DURING THE ONE YEAR, 1883, WITHOUT PAYING A CENT FOR IT.

## **SOME TORY TIMBER GRAFTERS**

Shields, Haggart and McLaren—100 miles.

The Haggart mentioned here is Hon. John Haggart, formerly Minister of Railways in the Conservative Government, and at present member of the House. Mr. McLaren was a Conservative Senator.

J. G. H. Bergeron—50 miles.

Mr. Bergeron is a member of the House and was attached to Mr. R. L. Borden's party on the recent western political tour, in the capacity of expounder of Conservative purity.

Hon. D. Tisdale—52 miles.

Formerly Minister Militia in the Conservative Government, and a member of the House now.

- Geo. H. Perley—50 miles.  
Conservative member of the House now.
- Hon. W. E. Sanford—50 miles.  
Conservative Senator from Hamilton
- Nicholas Flood Davin—50 miles.  
Former Conservative member for West Assiniboia. Mr. Davin sold this limit for \$400 cash, and never paid a cent of bonus or dues to the Government.
- Hiram Robinson—50 miles.  
Conservative candidate for City of Ottawa in 1896.
- Charles Magee—50 miles.  
Prominent Ottawa Conservative.
- D. E. Sprague—50 miles.  
Conservative candidate in Winnipeg.
- Thomas Marks—50 miles.  
Conservative politician, Port Arthur.
- T. W. Currier—50 miles.  
Prominent Conservative politician, Ottawa.
- Dr. R. G. Brett—50 miles.  
Former Premier Northwest Territories.
- Hon. Senator W. Muirhead—50 miles.
- Dr. W. H. Montague—50 miles.  
Former Minister of Agriculture in Conservative Government.
- G. W. Monk—50 miles.  
Former Conservative M. P. P., Carleton.
- Adam Brown—50 miles.  
Formerly Conservative member for Hamilton.
- Hon. Senator R. Hardisty—50 miles.
- G. H. Bradbury—50 miles.  
Conservative politician, Selkirk.
- Amos Roe—50 miles.  
Former proprietor "Winnipeg Times," afterwards Collector of Customs at Calgary.
- James A. Gouin—50 miles.  
Conservative politician, afterwards Postmaster at Ottawa.

Moore and McDowall—50 miles.  
McDowall was formerly Conservative member for Saskatchewan.

McLeod Stewart—50 miles.  
Conservative politician, Ottawa.

Shields, Haggart, McLaren and Nichol—50 miles.  
John Rochester—48 miles.  
Former Conservative member for Carleton County.

M. K. Dickinson—50 miles.  
Former Conservative member for Russell.

Joseph Kavanagh—50 miles.  
Prominent Conservative politician, Ottawa.

Jacob Erratt—50 miles.  
Conservative politician, Ottawa.

F. J. Clark—50 miles.  
Secretary Conservative Association, Winnipeg.

D. W. Cummings—50 miles.  
Conservative politician, Birtle, Man.

C. C. Colby—50 miles.  
Former member Conservative administration.

Hon. Senator Peter McLaren—50 miles.

Hon. Senator G. W. Howlan—50 miles.

T. R. Jones—50 miles.  
Conservative politician, St. John, N.B.

John C. Sproule—50 miles.  
Conservative politician, Winnipeg.

Wm. Elliott—50 miles.  
Former Conservative member for Peel, Ont.

D. H. MacDowall—50 miles.  
Former Conservative member, Saskatchewan.

John M. Farrow—50 miles.  
Former Conservative member, West Huron.

W. B. Scarth—50 miles.  
Former Conservative member for Winnipeg.

H. Robillard—50 miles.  
Former Conservative member for Ottawa.

Wm. Richardson—50 miles.  
Former Conservative M. P. P., Leeds.  
Walter Beatty—50 miles.  
Former Conservative member, Leeds.  
H. A. Ward—50 miles.  
Conservative member for East Durham.  
N. F. Paterson—50 miles.  
Conservative politician, North Ontario.  
Thomas Birkett—50 miles.  
Former Conservative member for Ottawa.

These are examples showing a few only out of the 212 who secured free timber limits from the Conservative Government in the year 1883 alone.

### BOLDER LOOTING EACH YEAR

The following shows how the rapacity of Tory politicians grew, and how the shameless demands of their supporters were satisfied.

In 1881, twenty-one timber limits were granted ; area, 995 square miles.

In 1882, ninety-eight timber limits were granted ; area, 4,642 square miles.

In 1883, two hundred and twelve timber limits were granted. AREA, 10,326 SQUARE MILES, FREE.

In eighteen years, from 1878, until the Conservatives were driven from office in 1896, they disposed of no less than 29,322 square miles of timber limits, an area equal to 18,766,080 acres. OF THIS QUANTITY 23,987 SQUARE MILES, EQUAL TO 15,351,680 ACRES, WERE GIVEN AWAY WITHOUT ONE CENT OF EQUIVALENT GOING INTO THE TREASURY.

### VIVID CONTRAST

Compare the above with the record of the Liberal Government. In eleven years, since 1896, when the Liberals came into power, THEY HAVE ALIENATED ONLY 6,456 SQUARE MILES, OR 4,131,840 ACRES, AND FOR THIS THEY HAVE RECEIVED THE SUM OF \$528,878, OR AN AVERAGE OF \$81.92 PER

SQUARE MILE. In addition to this, the ground rent amounts to \$30,000 a year, and there is also a stumpage imposed of 50 cents a thousand feet.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE CONSERVATIVES GAVE AWAY FOR NOTHING IN ONE YEAR, 1883, TO THEMSELVES, SENATORS, POLITICIANS, CONTRACTORS AND PARTY FRIENDS, 3,870 MORE SQUARE MILES OF TIMBER THAN THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT SOLD ALTOGETHER SINCE ASSUMING OFFICE.

IN ONE YEAR the Conservatives GAVE AWAY FREE 10,326 SQUARE MILES of timber limits, and the Liberal Government, SINCE THEY CAME INTO POWER, HAVE SOLD ONLY 6,456 SQUARE MILES OF TIMBER, FOR WHICH THEY SECURED FOR THE TREASURY THE SUM OF \$528,878.

Comparative statement showing the total area of timber berths granted in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, and the bonuses received therefor, during the Liberal and Conservative administrations respectively:

### **LIBERAL ADMINISTRATION**

(1873 to 1878)

Area .....	310 square miles
Bonus.....	\$7,150 00
Average per mile.....	23 06

### **CONSERVATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

(1878 to 1896)

Area .....	29,322 square miles
Bonus.....	\$121,219 00
Average per mile.....	4 13

### **LIBERAL ADMINISTRATION**

(1896 to May, 1907)

Area .....	6,456 square miles
Bonus.....	\$528,878 00
Average per mile.....	81 92

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Comparative statement showing the total area of timber berths granted within the railway belt in the Province of British Columbia, and the bonuses received therefor during the Conservative and Liberal Administrations respectively:

### **CONSERVATIVE ADMINISTRATION**

(1885 to 1st July, 1896)

Area.	1,144 square miles.
Bonus.	\$56,213 00
Average per mile.	49 10

### **LIBERAL ADMINISTRATION**

(1st July, 1896, to 31st May, 1907.)

Area.	1,401 square miles.
Bonus.	\$463,565 00
Average per mile.	330 75

### **FOSTER A LOOTER**

It would be difficult to find anything reflecting upon the integrity of public men in Canada, without finding Hon. G. E. Foster among the guilty ones. Would the people of Canada be surprised to learn that Geo. E. Foster, the advocate of purity in politics (who was once unseated for corrupt practises), the man who presumes to act in the capacity of public censor, himself APPLIED FOR FIFTY MILES OF TIMBER LIMIT, but, when he found that there were other competitors, he withdrew his application. This considerate politician declined to enter into competition for the limit; SO LONG AS HE COULD GET IT FOR NOTHING, ALL WAS WELL, but when he found that he might have to pay something, the limit ceased to interest him.

This is the gentleman who says the Government has acted improvidently by giving away limits for less than they were worth. HE APPLIED TO GET ONE FREE.

The Conservative administration was characterized by disgraceful trafficking in timber limits. There was scarcely a prominent Conservative politician in the Dominion whose name does not figure upon the records as an applicant for a timber limit

What will the electors say of men WHO DISPOSED OF 29,322 SQUARE MILES OF TIMBER WHILE IN OFFICE, at an average of \$4.13 per square mile?

What will the electors say of men who disposed<sup>d</sup> of 23,000 square miles of timber WITHOUT GETTING ANY COMPENSATION for the treasury?

What will the electors say of men WHO DIVIDED AMONG THEMSELVES WHEN IN POWER 10,326 SQUARE MILES OF TIMBER IN ONE YEAR, WITHOUT PAYING A CENT FOR IT?

What will the electors say of the Liberal Government, WHICH HAS NEVER SOLD A MILE OF TIMBER SINCE THEY CAME INTO POWER EXCEPT AT PUBLIC COMPETITION AND TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER?

What estimate will the people of Canada place upon the bona fides of the Conservative criticism of the Liberal Administration of timber lands, in face of the Conservative record, as disclosed above?

### **CONTINUED OLD SYSTEM**

The system of selling timber limits, which has provided the subject for Conservative condemnation, WAS INAUGURATED BY THE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT IN 1889. Previous to that time there was no competition, no bonus, simply a small rental per mile, and a royalty. The non-enforcement of even these easy terms led to the great abuses mentioned, which caused a dissipation of the timber resources without any corresponding advantage to the treasury.

In response to the Liberal attacks in the House, the Conservatives in 1889 inaugurated a competition system, under which it was not the practice for the Government to offer timber lands for sale unless some application was made for them. When any person wished to have a timber limit put up for sale, he made application to the timber and mines branch; then the officers of that branch issued the notices and advertisements, after seeing whether the timber was available and open to be sold by the Government. Tenders were advertised for, and after the tenders were received, they were opened on the day fixed, and the limit was given to the highest bidder.

This was the plan adopted under the regulations in 1889, and it was carried on until 1896 by the Conservatives, when they went out of office. The Liberal administration continued to enforce the same system with only trifling changes such as affected the homesteader in the railway belt, and the payment by the holder of the timber of half the cost of fire guarding.

In criticising the regulations under which timber limits have been granted by the Liberal Government, THE CONSERVATIVES ARE CONDEMNING THEIR OWN ACTS WHEN IN POWER. They made the law as it stood previous to December 17, 1907. When the Liberals assumed office in 1896 THEY ADMINISTERED FOR A TIME THE LAW AS THEY FOUND IT. THE CONSERVATIVES CRITICISE THE LAW THEY THEMSELVES INAUGURATED.

### **LIBERALS IMPROVED LAW**

While it is true that the Liberals continued the law with regard to the sale of timber limits, there appeared to be room for improvement, AND THE LAW WAS IMPROVED. The law now is that all timber areas put up for sale are first inspected by the Government cruiser and surveyed by the Government surveyor. An upset price is then placed on them and this price is kept secret by the Government. The auction takes place at the land office nearest the berth. The right is reserved to refuse any bid not exceeding the upset price. It is the same system used in selling the Dominion School lands.

### **WHAT CONSERVATIVES ALLEGE**

They say the regulations governing the sale of timber are defective.

These regulations WERE MADE BY THEMSELVES, and were changed by the Liberal Government on December 17, 1907.

Conservatives allege that timber was sold by Liberals at prices far below its value.

Conservatives disposed of 29,322 SQUARE MILES AT \$4.13 PER SQUARE MILE; 23,000 SQUARE MILES OF THIS QUANTITY WAS WITHOUT ANY CONSIDERATION AT ALL—OF WHICH 10,326 SQUARE MILES OF IT WAS DIVIDED AMONG THEMSELVES, FREE, IN ONE YEAR. THE LIBERALS OBTAINED

**\$81.92 PER SQUARE MILE FOR THE 6,456 SQUARE MILES THEY SOLD SINCE 1896.**

Conservatives allege that the Liberals disposed of the timber to political partisans through favoritism.

The Liberal Government has never sold a mile of timber EXCEPTING AT PUBLIC COMPETITION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER.

Conservatives charged that timber lands were sold by the Liberal Government in advance of population demands.

If this could be so in 1908, with a population of over 1,000,000, with how much more force could the argument be applied to the Conservatives, who parted in one year, 1883, with 10,326 square miles of timber, when there was scarcely any settlement at all in the Northwest. The Liberals only sold 6,456 square miles in the last twelve years, during which time an immense population has poured into the Northwest.

Conservatives accuse the Government of selling the timber to speculators.

There are not 500 miles of timber in the hands of men WHO ARE NOT OPERATORS, out of all the timber the Liberal Government ever sold. These men have been notified that they must erect mills and cut timber, OR THE LIMITS WILL REVERT TO THE GOVERNMENT.

The Conservatives say that there was not sufficient publication of notice that timber was for sale.

The Liberals are not responsible for this. If the time was too short THE CONSERVATIVES FIXED IT. They made the regulations, instructed the officials how to carry out the law; they established the precedents, and are to blame if the law was unsatisfactory.

**GOT GOOD PRICES**

The Liberal Government sold timber at an average price of \$81.92 per square mile. The Quebec Government, between the years 1888 and 1905, sold 26,500 square miles of timber, much of it pine and valuable hardwood, at an average of \$61.16 per square mile, or within a few cents of the price obtained by the Dominion Government for limits in the Northwest.

## TIMBER RESOURCES

The forest lands in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories cover 722,578 square miles, in the British Columbia railway belt 20,000 square miles.

Total Timber Lands.....	742,578	square miles.
Total Merchantable Timber Lands in Manitoba and the Northwest.....	130,000	"
Deduct Railway Belt in British Columbia..	20,000	"

Merchantable Timber in Manitoba and the Northwest.....	130,000	square miles
Sold from 1896 to 1908.....	6,500	"

Balance Unsold.....	123,500	square miles.
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If the Government sells the timber in the future at the same rate as in the past, there is enough, without reproduction, to last for 220 years. In addition to this, there are nearly 600,000 square miles of forest area, largely spruce, now growing, which can be cut every twenty years.

## TIMBER SOLD AND BONUS PAID

Conservatives—29,322 square miles.....	\$ 121,099	00
Liberals—6,456 square miles.....	528,875	00
Had Conservatives secured the same price		
Liberals got, the result would be.....	2,402,058	00

## HONEST ADMINISTRATION

The Liberal Government has administered the timber lands of the country prudently and honestly, and in a manner that has RESULTED IN LARGE SUMS FLOWING INTO THE TREASURY. Conservative administration of timber lands WAS A PUBLIC SCANDAL AND BENEFITTED ONLY THE POLITICIAN AND THE GRAFTER.

## TORIES FEARED THE TRUTH

Members of the Opposition have not hesitated to insinuate that Mr. Turiff, M.P., formerly Commissioner of Dominion Lands, acted

improperly in receiving tenders for timber limits. Mr. Turriff, on the floor of the House, constantly invited them to bring a charge against him, but without success. When the timber matters were before the Public Accounts Committee, Mr. Turriff was in daily attendance, inviting the Conservatives to call him to prove the allegation made by Mr. Foster that he, Mr. Turriff, retired to a secret and secluded room, where he opened the tenders in private. They knew well that their whole case would vanish into thin air in the presence of the truth, so they refrained from calling the one man who might be expected to know all about the affair.

**THEY DARED NOT PUT HIM UPON THE STAND,** and so far as the Conservatives are concerned, the public would never have received the benefit of Mr. Turriff's evidence. **MR. TURRIFF INSISTED UPON GIVING EVIDENCE, WHICH WAS AS FOLLOWS:**

He never opened any tender until the time had expired for receiving them.

He did not retire to a dark room to open tenders.

He never opened them alone, but always in the presence of another official.

Tenders, when received, were placed in the safe, and no one had access to them, and they were only opened at the proper moment.

He never favored any tenders but treated all alike, in accordance with the existing regulations.

He never had any suggestions made to him by any person while in office to do an improper act.

Mr. Turriff characterized as "A DELIBERATE LIE" the statements made with regard to himself by Mr. Foster, who, by the way, absented himself from the Committee when Mr. Turriff was on the stand.

### **TORIES STOP INVESTIGATION**

The attitude of the Opposition with regard to the investigation into timber matters before the Public Accounts Committee was inconsistent and contemptible. FAILING TO SECURE ANY EVIDENCE which would involve the official honesty of a former Commissioner of Crown Lands, and realizing that he had no case, Mr. Ames, the leading Conservative critic on timber matters, took advantage of the absence of

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Mr. McDonald, M.P., from the Committee Room, AND MOVED THAT INVESTIGATION TERMINATE.

Mr. Ames had been very persistent and suspicious throughout, and his vigorous plea that the proceedings be brought to a conclusion would have had the effect of blocking further investigation into timber matters.

Investigation revealed NOTHING FROM WHICH POLITICAL CAPITAL COULD BE MADE, and the Opposition lost all interest in the proceedings. In the administration of timber affairs, everything was found to be regular, and every official concerned emerged from the ordeal with credit.

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